

## PUBLICATIONS.

**The Practical Application of the Roentgen Rays in Therapeutics and Diagnosis.** By William Allen Pusey, A. M., M. D., Professor of Dermatology in the University of Illinois; and Eugene W. Caldwell, B. S., Director of the Edward N. Gibbs X-Ray Memorial Laboratory of the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York. Handsome octavo volume of 591 pages, with 180 illustrations, nearly all clinical. W. B. Saunders & Co., 1903. Cloth, \$4.50 net; Sheep or Half Morocco, \$5.50 net.

This is far and away the best thing yet published on the subject. One is tempted to say it is really the only book on X-Rays yet written that is really worth paying good money for. The work has been in preparation for some two years or more, and the result of careful digestion of an immense amount of material is evident. To the ordinary user of an X-Ray outfit in general surgical work, many of the refinements of apparatus, technique, etc., here described and illustrated will be a revelation. The first portion, by Caldwell, deals with apparatus, tubes, etc., and contains a general historical resume of the subject. Here even one well skilled in the practical every-day use of X-Rays will find much of both interest and profit. The author discusses the question of static machine vs. coil in a very wise fashion, and frankly admits that it is largely a question of personal preference, though the coil is rather more to be relied upon and is less difficult to keep in order. Many handy and ingenious devices are illustrated. The illustrations throughout are excellent, and those showing tubes working properly and badly, are well colored. The balance of the work is written by Dr. Pusey and is a very up-to-date presentation of the clinical side of X-Ray work. He has gone through a mass of printed stuff and has culled from it most of what is of any value. Here the illustrations are from clinical cases and are very well reproduced. The photographs of patients treated for various skin lesions are most convincing, and it is difficult to imagine anyone denying the usefulness of X-Ray treatment, after merely turning over the pages and carefully observing these half-tone reproductions. In discussing the probable theory as to the cause of X-Ray dermatitis, Dr. Pusey quotes at length from a paper by Dr. Philip Mills Jones, of San Francisco, on this subject, in which the contention is made that these effects are due to absorption of radiant energy. The author refers to one objection to this theory which has been frequently voiced, to the effect that the action of light and X-Rays cannot be similar because X-Rays have but little, and light has a considerable, effect upon bacteria. This contention was answered by Dr. Jones almost before it was raised, and in the portion of his paper which Dr. Pusey has quoted: "In comparison with the X-Rays the ultra-violet rays from an arc light have a very long wave length, and hence will part with all their energy through absorption by the molecules of the superficial cells." Even assuming that the recent discovery of radium and its curious properties necessitates a modification of the original conception of X-Rays as true ether waves of the same sort as light, the fact will still remain that they are a form of radiant energy, and that light is a form of radiant energy, so that the purely theoretic consideration of the question will not be altered save for the substitution of one set of terms for another. The bookmaking is good, aside from the contained matter, and the total net result is the rather unusual one of a medical book that is really worth \$4.50!

**Bureau of Animal Industry, 19th Annual Report, for 1902.** Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The volume contains, in addition to the papers of interest only to the agriculturalist, the following papers on medical subjects: The duration of the life of the tubercle bacillus in cheese; Recent experimental inquiry upon milk secretion; The physiology of milk secretion; Bovine tuberculosis and other animal diseases affecting the public health.

**Spotted Fever (Tick Fever) of the Rocky Mountains.** A new disease. By John F. Anderson. Bul. No. 14, Hyg. Lab., U. S. Pub. Health & Marine Hospital Service, Washington, D. C. The bulletin was issued in July and presents the results of a careful study of this rather new infection, with excellent illustrations, in color, both of the rash produced in the course of the disease, and of the probable organism in the red cells. Data concerning 121 cases are given.

**Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, 105th Annual Session.** The book does not contain either table of contents or index; consequently is not reviewed.

**California Health Resorts.** By Guy Hinsdale, Philadelphia. Published in the *Colorado Medical Journal*, October, 1903. Mentions Yreka, Red Bluff, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Joaquin Valley, etc.

**Publications of the Department of Agriculture: Olive Oil and its Substitutes.** Tolman and Munson. "It is a matter especially worthy of comment that the California oils bought in the open market were all of superior quality, and that only two of the fifteen samples so obtained contained any oil other than olive oil. Of these two samples one was not labeled with the name of the manufacturer, but instead bore the name of the dealer."

**Average Composition of American Food Products.** This pamphlet gives extensive tables showing the amount of refuse, water, protein, carbohydrates, ash and fuel-value of a large range of foodstuffs. Excellent suggestions are also made as to the method of calculating dietaries.

**Experiments on the Metabolism of Nitrogen, Sulphur and Phosphorus in the Human Organism.** Reports some well-conducted experiments upon the digestion of various foods, composition of foodstuffs, feces, etc. Should be very valuable in connection with a study of dietetics.

**Some Chinese Vegetable Food Materials.** By Walter C. Blasdale, University of California. Bul. No 68., Experiment Stations. A very careful scientific study of the question, giving much useful and valuable information of these, to us, new foodstuffs.

**Renal Decapsulation as a Cure for Chronic Bright's Disease.** By Franz H. Coe. Seattle, Washington. Read before the Washington State Medical Association, 1903. Reprinted from *Northwest Medicine*. A brief account of the operation, historically, with a report of two patients so treated by the writer, together with the discussion of the paper.

**Should the Forests be Preserved?** California Water and Forest Association, Mills Building, San Francisco, Calif. Copies can be had without charge by application to the Association. The great importance of forest preservation, from the sanitary standpoint alone, should be appreciated by every physician and his influence should be toward this object. A denuded watershed is not conducive to public health.

**Chemistry of the Soils as Related to Crop Production.** By Milton Whitney and F. K. Cameron, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and published by the Department.